

MASS. HS80.2: In 8/994

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION

Interim Fiscal Year 1994 State Plan for Independent Living under
Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as
amended.



0 1993

University of Massachusetts

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Type of Agency: Blind

Section 1: Legal Basis and State Certifications (Sec. 704 of
the Act; 34 CFR 76.104 & 106(a))

- 1.1 As a condition to the receipt of financial assistance under
title VII, chapter 1 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as
amended, the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind,
(Name of Designated State Unit)
in conjunction with the Statewide Independent Living
Council, is authorized to submit this State Plan for
Independent Living. The designated State unit agrees to
administer the program in accordance with the provisions of
the Act, all applicable regulations, policies and
procedures promulgated by the Secretary, and the provisions
of this State plan.
- 1.2 The State legally may carry out each provision of the plan
and the designated State unit has the authority under State
law to perform the functions of the State plan.
- 1.3 All provisions of the State plan are consistent with State
law.
- 1.4 The Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind
(Title of State Officer)
has authority under State law to receive, hold and disburse
Federal funds made available under this State plan.

¹ Public Law 93-112, as amended by Public Laws 93-516,
95-602, 98-221, 99-506, 100-630, and 102-569.

² All references in this State plan to "designated State
unit" relate to the agency identified in this
paragraph.

³ Unless otherwise stated, "Act" means the Rehabilitation
Act of 1973, as amended.

⁴ No funds under title VII, chapter 1 of the Act may be
awarded without an approved State plan in accordance
with section 704 of the Act.

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- 1.5 The Commissioner
(Title of State Officer)
and the Chairperson of the Statewide Independent Living
Council have the authority to submit this plan.
- 1.6 The agency and council that submit the plan have adopted or
otherwise formally approved the plan.
- 1.7 The plan is the basis for State operation and administration
of the independent living services and centers for
independent living program, and is available for public
inspection.
- 1.8 The effective date of this State plan is October 1, 1993.

Signature

Charles H. Crawford
Typed Name of Signatory

Signature

Lorelee Stewart
Typed Name of Signatory

Massachusetts Commission for the Blind
Director, Designated State Unit

Chairperson, SILC
Chairperson, Statewide
Independent Living Council

Date

Date



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Section 2: Plan Submittal

2.1 Purpose of the State Plan (Sec. 704(a)(3) of the Act)

By submitting this State plan, the State assures the existence of appropriate planning, financial support and coordination, and other assistance to appropriately address, on a statewide and comprehensive basis, needs in the State for:

- a. the provision of State independent living services;
- b. the development and support of a statewide network of centers for independent living; and
- c. working relationships between--
 - (i) programs providing independent living services and centers for independent living; and
 - (ii) the vocational rehabilitation program established under title I, and other programs providing services for individuals with disabilities.

2.2 Frequency of Submittal (Sec. 704(a)(3) of the Act; 34 CFR 76.104)

- a. This interim plan is for fiscal year 1994. In subsequent years, a plan is submitted every three years by July 1 of the year preceding the first fiscal year for which the plan is submitted.
- b. Plan amendments are submitted whenever the Secretary determines an amendment to the State plan is essential during the effective period of the plan; or when there is a significant and relevant change that materially affects the information or the assurances in the plan, the administration or operation of the plan, or the organization, policies, or operations of the designated State unit.

2.3 State Plan Development (Sec. 704(a)(2) of the Act)

The State plan is jointly developed and signed by the director of the designated State unit and the chairperson of

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the Statewide Independent Living Council, acting on behalf of and at the direction of the Council.

2.4 Public Hearings (Sec. 704(m)(D)(6) of the Act)

The State provides for public hearings regarding the contents of this plan during both the formulation and review of the plan.

2.5 Opportunity for Review and Comment Under State Review Process (34 CFR 79.8 and 76.141-142)

If the plan or an amendment to the plan is subject to the State review process, such materials are reviewed, and commented on, in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 12372. Comments provided by the State review process will be transmitted to the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Section 3: Designation and Responsibilities of the Designated State Unit

3.1 Designation (Sec. 704(c) of the Act)

The State unit designated to administer the State's Independent Living Services program under this plan is:
The Massachusetts Commission f/t Blind

3.2 Designated State Unit Responsibilities (Sec. 704(c)(2) of the Act)

The designated State unit:

- a. receives, accounts for, and disburses funds received by the State under title VII, chapter 1 based on this plan;
- b. provides administrative support services for programs under parts B and C of title VII, chapter 1 of the Act;
- c. keeps such records and affords such access to such records as the Commissioner finds to be necessary with respect to the programs; and

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- d. submits such additional information or provides such assurances as the Commissioner may require with respect to the programs.

Section 4: Personnel Administration

4.1. Affirmative Action (Sec. 704(m)(2) of the Act)

All recipients of financial assistance under title VII, chapter 1 take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of such individuals under the provisions of section 503 of the Act.

4.2 Participation in Political Activity (5 USC 1501 et seq., 7321-7327)

All recipients of financial assistance under title VII, chapter 1, if other than an education agency, prohibits staff employed in the day to day administration and operation of independent living services programs and centers for independent living from engaging in political activity that is prohibited by the Hatch Act.

Section 5: Financial Administration

5.1 General Provisions (Sec. 704(m)(3) of the Act)

All recipients of financial assistance under title VII, chapter 1 adopt such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for funds paid to the State under title VII, chapter 1.

5.2 Source of State Funds (Secs. 712(b)(2) and 712(b)(3) of the Act)

- a. The non-Federal share of the cost of any project that receives assistance through an allotment under this part may be provided in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services.

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- b. For the purpose of determining the Federal share with respect to any State, expenditures by a political subdivision of such State shall, subject to regulations prescribed by the Commissioner, be regarded as expenditures by such State.

5.3 Financial Recordkeeping (Sec. 704(m)(4) of the Act)

All recipients of financial assistance under title VII, chapter 1:

- a. maintain records that fully disclose--
 - 1. the amount and disposition by such recipient of the proceeds of such financial assistance,
 - 2. the total cost of the project or undertaking in connection with which such financial assistance is given or used, and
 - 3. the amount of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources;
- b. maintain such other records as the Commissioner determines to be appropriate to facilitate an effective audit.

5.4 Access to Financial Records (Sec. 704(m)(4 & 5) of the Act)

All recipients of financial assistance under title VII, chapter 1 afford access to the Commissioner and the Comptroller General or any of their duly authorized representatives, for the purpose of conducting audits and examinations, any books, documents, papers, and records of the recipients that are pertinent to the financial assistance received under title VII, chapter 1.

5.5 Financial Reports (Sec. 704(m)(4)(D) of the Act)

All recipients of financial assistance under title VII, chapter 1 submit reports with respect to records required in section 5.3 of this State plan, as the Commissioner determines to be appropriate.

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Section 6: Scope of the State Independent Living Services Program

6.1 Independent Living Services to Individuals with Severe Disabilities

a. Identification of Independent Living Services (Sec. 704(e) of the Act)

In addition to the independent living core services of information and referral, independent living skills training, peer counseling (including cross-disability peer counseling), and individual and systems advocacy, the State provides the following independent living services to individuals with severe disabilities:

- X (1) counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services;
- X (2) services related to securing housing or shelter, including services related to community group living, and supportive of the purposes of this Act and of the titles of this Act, and adaptive housing services (including appropriate accommodations to and modifications of any space used to serve, or occupied by, individuals with disabilities);
- X (3) rehabilitation technology;
- X (4) mobility training;
- X (5) services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services;
- X (6) personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services;
- X (7) surveys, directories, and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation opportunities, and accessible transportation, and other support services;
- (8) consumer information programs on rehabilitation and independent living services available under this Act, especially for minorities and other individuals with disabilities who have traditionally been unserved or underserved by programs under this Act;

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- X (9) education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities;
- X (10) supported living;
- X (11) transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation;
- X (12) physical rehabilitation;
- X (13) therapeutic treatment;
- X (14) provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices;
- ____ (15) individual and group social and recreational services;
- ____ (16) training to develop skills specifically designed for youths who are individuals with disabilities to promote self-awareness and esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and explore career options;
- ____ (17) services for children;
- X (18) services under other Federal, State, or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling, or other assistance of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with disabilities;
- X (19) appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals assisted under this Act for similar services in the future;
- ____ (20) community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities; and
- X (21) such other services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act; Interpretors for the Deaf, Case Management, Information & Referral, Vision Utilization Services

b. State's Written Policies on Extent and Scope of Services Available to Individuals with Severe Disabilities (Sec. 704(f) of the Act)

The State has established and maintains written policies covering the extent and scope of each of the independent living services identified in section 6.1(a) of this plan as being available under the State program, and the conditions, criteria and procedures under which each service is to be provided.

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Attachment 6.1(b)(A) describes the extent and scope of the above identified independent living services, and how they meet the State's objectives for independent living. The attachment also describes any arrangements of grants or contracts made by the State for providing such services.

6.2 Independent Living Services to Groups of Individuals with Severe Disabilities

a. Statewide Network of Centers for Independent Living (Sec. 704(g) of the Act)

The State has developed a design for the establishment of a statewide network of centers for independent living that comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 725 of the Act.

Attachment 6.2(A) describes the design for the establishment of a statewide network of centers for independent living.

b. Funds to Support Centers for Independent Living under Title VII, Part B (Sec. 713 of the Act)

The State uses title VII, part B funds to support the operation of centers for independent living:

 Yes x No

c. Funds to Support Centers for Independent Living under Title VII, Part C (Sec. 723 of the Act)

In fiscal year 1992, the general operations of this State's centers for independent living are supported by the following amounts of funds.

State Funds \$79,927.00 Federal Allotment \$257,854.00

If State funds to support the general operation of centers for independent living equal or exceed the Federal allotment, the director of the designated State unit awards grants to eligible centers for independent living in the State that comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 725. The grants are made from the funds allotted for fiscal year 1994, for

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the purpose of planning, conduct, administration, and evaluation of centers for independent living.

 Yes X No

If answered in the affirmative, the director of the designated State unit awards grants under section 723 of the Act to any eligible agency that is receiving funds under part C of title VII on September 30, 1993, unless the director makes a finding that the agency involved fails to comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 725 of the Act.

 Yes X No

d. Training on Independent Living Philosophy (Sec. 713(6) of the Act)

The State uses funds under title VII, part B to train individuals with disabilities and individuals providing services to individuals with disabilities and other persons regarding the independent living philosophy.

 X Yes No

Section 7: Eligibility and Independent Living Plans

7.1 Eligibility for Receipt of Services (Secs. 7(15)(B) and 703 of the Act)

a. Individuals with severe disabilities are eligible for services provided under this plan.

b. To be eligible, an individual:

(1) has a severe physical or mental impairment whose ability to function independently in the family or community or whose ability to obtain, maintain, or advance in employment is substantially limited; and

(2) for whom the delivery of independent living services will improve the ability to function, continue functioning, or move towards functioning

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independently in the family or community or to continue in employment, respectively.

7.2 Independent Living Plans (Sec. 704(e) of the Act)

The State provides independent living services under title VII, chapter 1 to individuals with severe disabilities in accordance with an independent living plan mutually agreed upon by an appropriate staff member of the service provider and the individual, unless the individual signs a waiver stating that such a plan is unnecessary.

Section 8: Specific Methods of Administration

8.1 Objectives (Sec. 704(d) of the Act)

The State shall establish:

- a. objectives that are consistent with, and further the purpose of, title VII, chapter 1, and
- b. timelines for the achievement of the objectives.

Attachment 8.1(A) describes the State's objectives to be achieved under the plan and establishes timelines for the achievement of the objectives, and explains how such objectives are consistent with and further the purpose of title VII, chapter 1.

8.2 State Studies and Evaluations

a. Evaluation (Sec. 704(n) of the Act)

The State establishes a method for the periodic evaluation of the effectiveness: of the plan in meeting the State's objectives and timelines for meeting those objectives; of the satisfaction of individuals with disabilities with the above objectives; and how the above objectives are consistent with, and further the purpose of, title VII, chapter 1.

Attachment 8.2(a)(A) describes the methods used for these evaluations.

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b. Studies and Analyses (Sec. 713(5) of the Act)

The designated State unit uses funds under title VII, part B to conduct studies and analyses, gather information, develop model policies and procedures, and present information, approaches, strategies, findings, conclusions, and recommendations to Federal, State, and local policymakers in order to enhance independent living services for individuals with disabilities.

 Yes X No

8.3 Client Assistance Program (Secs. 20 and 704(m)(1) of the Act)

All recipients of financial assistance under title VII, chapter 1 that provide services to individuals with disabilities advise those individuals seeking or receiving services under title VII, chapter 1 about the availability of the Client Assistance Program under section 112 of the Act, the purposes of the services provided under such program, and information on the means of seeking assistance under such program.

Section 9: General Methods of Administration

9.1 Methods Necessary for Proper and Efficient Administration (Sec. 12(c) of the Act)

The State employs those methods of administration as found necessary by the Commissioner for proper and efficient administration of the plan and for carrying out functions for which the State is responsible under the State plan.

9.2 Cooperation, Coordination and Working Relationships (Secs. 704(i-k) of the Act)

- a. The State takes steps that maximize the cooperation, coordination, and working relationships among--
 - (1) the independent living service program, the Statewide Independent Living Council, and centers for independent living; and

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- (2) the designated State unit, other State agencies represented on the Independent Living Council, other councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues, and other public and private entities determined to be appropriate by the Council.
- b. The State ensures that services funded under title VII, chapter 1 will complement and be coordinated with other services in order to avoid unnecessary duplication with other Federal, State, and local programs.
- c. The State coordinates Federal and State funding for centers for independent living and independent living services.

Attachment 9.2(A) describes the State's efforts in maximizing the cooperation, coordination and working relationships indicated in this section.

9.3 Capacity Building to Provide Independent Living Services
(Sec. 713(4) of the Act)

The State uses funds under title VII, part B to support activities to increase the capacities of public or nonprofit agencies and organizations and other entities to develop comprehensive approaches or systems for providing independent living services.

 Yes X No

9.4 Outreach (Sec. 704(1) of the Act)

The State takes steps to reach out to populations, including minority groups and urban and rural populations, that are unserved or underserved by the programs funded under title VII of the Act.

Attachment 9.4(A) describes the State's efforts at outreach to minority groups and urban and rural populations that are unserved or underserved by the programs funded under title VII of the Act.

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9.5 Expansion and Improvement of Independent Living Services
(Sec. 713(2) of the Act)

The State demonstrates ways to expand and improve independent living services:

X Yes No

9.6 Nondiscrimination (34 CFR 76.500)

No individual will on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under this plan.

9.7 Statewide Independent Living Council (Secs. 704(b) and 713 of the Act)

- a. The State has established a Statewide Independent Living Council in accordance with the requirements stated in section 705 of the Act.
- b. The State uses Title VII, Part B funds to support the activities of the Statewide Independent Living Council:

 Yes X No

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List of Attachments for the State Plan for Independent Living

State plan attachments describe in greater detail certain elements of the assurances provided in the State plan preprint. The following is a list of the attachments required for this State plan.

- Attachment 6.1(b)(A): Description of the extent and scope of independent living services to be provided by the State, including any arrangements of grants or contracts made by the State for providing such services, and how they meet the State's objectives for independent living.
- Attachment 6.2(A): Description of the design for establishing a Statewide network of centers for independent living.
- Attachment 8.1(A): Description of the State's objectives to be achieved under this plan for furthering the purpose of title VII, chapter 1 of the Act, and timelines for achieving the objectives.
- Attachment 8.2(a)(A): Description of the State's methods for the periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of the State plan in meeting the objectives identified in attachment 8.1(A).
- Attachment 9.2(A): Description of the State's efforts in maximizing the cooperation, coordination and working relationships among independent living service programs, centers for independent living, and other providers of services to persons with severe disabilities.
- Attachment 9.4(A): Description of the State's efforts to reach unserved, underserved and minority groups in urban and rural populations.

Attachment 6.1 (b) (A): Description of Extent and Scope of Independent Living Services

The continuing goal of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind Independent Living Program (MCB/ILP) is to empower legally blind and handicapped consumers who are not eligible for vocational rehabilitation services to remain at home and to become as independent as possible in community living. This goal will be accomplished in FFY 1994 with resources made available under Title VII, Part B of the Rehabilitation Act as amended through the provision of a core set of Independent Living services to 85 eligible blind consumers over the twelve month period between October 1, 1993 and September 30, 1994. These essential services, while clearly limited due to restricted funding, will be made available on a statewide basis to multihandicapped blind consumers who present the most compelling need. Such core services offerings-reflecting a blend of directly provided and purchased services consistent with demonstrated client need - will include information and referral; individual case coordination and advocacy; a continuum of adaptive housing services ranging from initial assessment to completed installation; systems advocacy; and more. All of these services shall be collectively devoted to the Independent Living Part B consumers achieving their individually driven, community living goals. The program anticipates that all 85 severely disabled consumers projected to self-select as active participants in the MCB/IL Part B service structure during FFY 1994 will benefit either to the point of optimal personal independence (closure), or significantly advance towards that goal.

* Grants and Contractual Arrangements: The majority of the resources made available to the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind Independent Living Program under Title VII, Part B of the Rehabilitation Act as amended will be devoted to consumer services and extended under a contractual arrangement between the Program and properly enrolled vendors. A small portion of these funds will be set aside to oversee the services provided. Vendor-specific contracts will be developed with individual architects for the provision of professional drawings and specifications related to adaptive housing modifications; blanket Master Service Agreements unique to the IL Program will be established enabling the utilization of a variety of prequalified vendors in the provision of such statewide purchased activities as Homemaker services, Respite Care services, Consumer Transportation services as well as for the provision of a wide range of independent living aids, devices and appliances ranging from wheelchairs and automatic door openers to liquid level indicators and braille playing cards.

* Support of State Plan Objectives: The Part B Program's design, which provides participating consumers with a mechanism to identify and pursue highly individualized services, is consistent with the Title VII philosophy of consumer control and self-determination. The MCB/IL Program's Board will now serve in an advisory capacity during FFY 1994 so that multihandicapped blind consumers may fully enjoy equal access.

Attachment 6.2 (A): Establishment of Statewide Network of Centers

Massachusetts has ten (10) Independent Living Centers that have qualified for Title VII, Part C funds in FFY 1994. Each of these Centers serves a unique geographic area and possesses a correspondingly distinct range of cultural and demographic attributes.

The ten Centers that have qualified for Part C funds are:

AdLib, with offices in Pittsfield and North Adams, the county's two largest cities, provides services to consumers in 31 mostly rural cities and towns in Berkshire County, the western-most county in Massachusetts;

Boston Center for Independent Living, with offices in downtown Boston, Newton and Roxbury (one of Boston's biggest multi-cultural communities), provides services to consumers who live in the city of Boston and 52 of its suburbs to the south, north and west of Boston;

Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled, with a mid-Cape office located in Hyannis, provides services to consumers who live the 25 towns on Cape Cod and the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket;

Center for Living and Working, with offices located in Worcester, Fitchburg, Southbridge and Milford, provides services to consumers who live in 73 cities and towns located in Central Massachusetts;

Greater Framingham Association Independent Living Center, provides services through its Framingham office to consumers in the 12 towns of Metro-west, suburban and rural communities located between Boston and Worcester;

Independence Associates, with offices located in Brockton and Taunton, provides services to consumers who live in 45 cities and towns in southeastern Massachusetts;

Independent Living Center of the North Shore, provides services through its Lynn office, to consumers who live in 20 cities and towns located in the northern coastal region of Massachusetts and Cape Ann;

Northeast Independent Living Program, with offices in Lawrence and Amesbury, provides services to consumers who live in 30 cities and towns located in the northeast corner of Massachusetts;

Southeast Center for Independent Living, provides services through its Fall River office, to consumers who live in 10 cities and towns in the southeast coastal area of Massachusetts;

STAVROS, with offices in Amherst, Greenfield and Springfield, provides services to consumers who live in 71 cities and rural hilltowns of Western Massachusetts.

After more than twelve years of uninterrupted IL service provision to eligible blind persons, the Independent Living Center co-located with MCB will cease to exist at the conclusion of FFY 1993. The federal funds its consumers had enjoyed shall be distributed among the above cited 10 Centers. Accordingly, a significant task for the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind Independent Living Program in FFY 1994 will be the careful coordination and successful completion of a statewide transition - in active, individual partnership with the some 175 multihandicapped blind consumers currently associated with the "agency-based" IL Center at MCB - to the ten (10) community based Independent Living Centers that will be funded next year from Part C resources. For those blind IL consumers who indicate a desire to transition to their most local CIL, we are committed to achieving a smooth and beneficial transfer.

8.1 (A): Description of Objectives to be Achieved and Timelines

1. Objectives to be Achieved/Timelines:

Goal 1: To facilitate the provision of direct and/or purchased Independent Living Part B services to 85 multihandicapped blind consumers during FFY 1994. This will include an existing and ongoing caseload of a projected 49 consumers at September 30, 1993; and 36 new Independent Living Part B referrals during FFY 1994, of which it is anticipated that 24 of these consumers will choose to enter active service. ONGOING THROUGHOUT FFY 1994

Goal 2: To offer and where applicable facilitate an individual transition plan for each of the some 175 multihandicapped blind Massachusetts Commission for the Blind Independent Living Center consumers to his/her most local Center for Independent Living during FFY 1994.

Objectives:

a. to conclude discussions with each active MCB/ILC consumer and receive their direction as to whether or not they choose to be referred to their most local CIL. BY OCTOBER 1, 1993.

b. to confer with key personnel from each of the 10 CILs to advise them of the ensuing individual referrals of multihandicapped blind consumers to their Program from the MCB/ILC; to facilitate those administrative and service matters supportive of a transition that will be genuinely beneficial to the transitioning consumer. THE MAJORITY OF THIS EFFORT TO BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 1, 1993, understanding that some consumers may choose to declare their desire to transition after this date.

c. to receive and respond to subsequent inquiries from referred consumers or CILs, should it be determined that the receiving Center for Independent Living cannot respond positively to the full and reasonable Independent Living service needs of the consumer. The Massachusetts Commission for the Blind Independent Living Program, Part B will work in partnership with the consumer, the CIL(s) as well as the statewide service structure of the designated state unit for the blind to explore and provide important services so as to supplement the consumer's IL/IWRP. In all cases, the referring ILC will be notified of final outcomes. ONGOING THROUGHOUT FFY 1994.

Goal 3: Under the aegis of the MSILC, conduct a statewide survey of multihandicapped blind consumers who were, by choice, transitioned to community based CILs during FFYs 93/94, so as to gain their unique perspective on the IL outcomes of these actions; to contemporaneously survey those blind consumers who for whatever reason chose not to be referred to determine their IL outcomes. DELIVER SURVEY INSTRUMENT TO CONSUMERS DURING MAY 1994; DISTRIBUTE RESULTS BY JULY 1994.

Objectives:

To analyze information received from above consumer surveys by June of 1994 and share summarized data with designated state unit for the blind, MSILC and others, as appropriate. BY JULY 1994.

Goal 4: To promote to the fullest extent possible both the profound Independent Living goals and aspirations of the multihandicapped blind community in the Commonwealth as well as the continued development of a statewide network of community based Independent Living Centers.

Objectives:

To work cooperatively and productively with the Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council such that, to the maximum extent possible, joint activities are thoughtfully coordinated and of genuine benefit to disabled consumers, including those who are blind. ONGOING THROUGHOUT FFY 1994.

Attachment 8.2: Evaluation of State Plan Objectives

The Executive Committee of the MCB/IL Advisory Council will work with staff associated with the Independent Living Part B grant to ensure that activities required to accomplish State Plan goals and objectives are proceeding on schedule. A member of said Executive Committee will work with IL/Part B staff at MCB - as well as other consumers and management, if desired - to be certain that the MSILC Executive Committee receives regular and timely reports as to progress achieved towards the accomplishment of the goals and objectives that are described in Attachment 8.1 (A).

Attachment 9.2 (A): Maximizing Cooperation, Coordinating and Working Relationships in Independent Living

The Massachusetts Commission for the Blind Part B Independent Living Program is committed to doing all that it can to advance responsible cooperative efforts among all components of the Independent Living network across the Commonwealth.

We believe that deliberate and thoughtful coordination efforts among relevant parties are essential for the evolving statewide IL service structure to fulfill its high promise for all disabled IL consumers, including many members of the blind community. Accordingly, consumers and staff associated with the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind Independent Living Program look forward to actively participating in a variety of external settings where the IL needs of the blind community are acknowledged and efforts to address them - in concert with the needs of all severely disabled IL consumers - are progressive, genuine and intended to endure.

As such, the IL Part B Program at MCB intends regular and active participation with the MSILC as well as other boards and agents that will serve to thoughtfully advance the needs of all of the disabled IL consumers within the Commonwealth.

Attachment 9.4 (A) Outreach to Unserved or Underserved Populations and Minority Groups

The Massachusetts Commission for the Blind Independent Living Program has a successful history of reaching out to underserved populations of multihandicapped blind persons. The statewide Radio Reading Service has been used on numerous occasions over the past ten years to alert blind and otherwise print handicapped persons of the unique services available from the network of Independent Living providers across the state: targeted outreach efforts have been successfully mounted during the same period of time on Cape Cod and other areas of rural Southeastern Massachusetts: the hilltowns of Western Massachusetts and the inner city areas of some of the Commonwealth's largest urban centers. Anticipated IL Part B resources in FFY 1994 will be scarce and thus continued outreach efforts will need to be economical and carefully chosen. We have two continuing activities that are contemplated:

1. The IL Part B program will once again plan to use the free airwaves of the Talking Information Center's statewide radio reading network so that updated contact may be made with the thousands of blind and otherwise print handicapped listeners for the purpose of providing them with contemporary information regarding the status of the evolving IL system in Massachusetts. This statewide radio network has proven a beneficial informational outlet in the past and with listenership growing each year, it will continue to be a valuable asset for communicating directly with the blind community.

2. A targeted outreach project directed at increased participation from disabled members of Minority Groups residing in Western Massachusetts was commenced during the current year and will be continued in FFY 1994. The Self Advocacy Project, as it is called, is a support group composed of disabled Minority Group consumers from Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Stavros Center for Independent Living and other community based organizations in the Pioneer Valley. This group is funded by a grant through Stavros and the members meet on a monthly basis.

The primary objective of this group is to improve the level of services being delivered to all disabled Minority Group members in the Valley. Each participating member learns what his or her rights and responsibilities are when advocating for services from various governmental agencies. The Project is also involved with contacting local officials and inviting them to meetings in order to better understand the political process and how to better raise the

awareness level of public officials regarding the disabled community.

In September of this year, the Self Advocacy Project has planned a disability awareness week in Springfield, the largest city in the Pioneer Valley, wherein the IL services of a variety of providers will be central. It is expected that the fruits of the Project's overall efforts will culminate in the activities of this week of activities such that the benefits will accrue over FFY 1994.

MCB/IL will engage in the necessary follow up work with interested, self-declared referrals/consumers so that advances made during the week or thereafter are properly consolidated.

Beyond the above, there is the ongoing larger MCB outreach operations which have been most successful over the course of the last decade. This powerful operation as exemplified by the previous activities of Ms. Tanya Garcia will continue through the upcoming efforts of Regina Chavez.

The MSILC's plan for addressing outreach to unserved and underserved populations includes referrals and monitoring consumer demographics and outreach activities of Independent Living Centers funded under Title VII Part C and other independent living services providers.

Each of the Part C funded Independent Living Centers has identified underserved minority and disability populations in their area through census data, information and referral requests, consumer advocacy efforts and other methods. In addition, many Centers have incorporated plans for providing services to people who used to receive services through the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind's (MCB) Independent Living Program. Under new Title VII parameters, beginning this year, these services will be provided through the Part C Independent Living Center network.

The following is a summary of each Center's planned outreach activities who complied with the standards and assurances in Section 725 of the Reauthorization Act:

AdLib's service area is largely rural, creating unique challenges for reaching consumers who might benefit from services. To address this issue, AdLib operates a Drop-In Center that has successfully served as a point of entry for residents of rural areas who periodically come to Pittsfield, Berkshire County's largest city,

for services. In addition, AdLib has requested Title VII funding for a Director of Community Development who will facilitate outreach activities to underserved areas and populations throughout Berkshire County. Title VII funding was also requested for additional skills trainers who will work with underserved disability populations including people who are blind or who have visual impairments and people with psychiatric disabilities.

Boston Center For Independent Living's (BCIL's) service area contains large numbers of African-Americans, Latinos and Asians. BCIL's Multi-Cultural Outreach Program, outreaches to potential consumers through the minority service organizations represented on its advisory board, other local community service, social and religious organizations, and throughout BCIL's branch offices, which operate out of service centers based in Boston's African-American and Latino communities. Multi-Cultural Outreach Program staff are partially funded with Title VII Part C dollars. BCIL has increased the volume of services it delivers to individuals who are both deaf and blind through its close association with the Deaf-Blind Contact Center, a consumer organization that provides peer counseling and other services to individuals who are deaf-blind. BCIL has requested Part C funds for assistive technology and interpreters needed to improve its service delivery to consumers who are deaf-blind as well as those who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired.

Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled's (CORD) service area, particularly the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, is geographically isolated, and includes a broad diversity of age and cultural groups. Martha's Vineyard is home to the Wamponoag reservation, and the Cape is home to growing communities of African-Americans, Hispanics, Asians and Brazilians. In addition, the Cape has become a popular location for retirees. CORD proposes to use Title VII Part C funds to hire additional staff to provide outreach to the Cape and Island's elderly and multi-cultural communities. In addition to its current services programs for underserved disability populations including people who are deaf or hard of hearing and people with mental retardation, CORD intends to outreach to former clients of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind.

Center for Living and Working's (CLW's) service area includes significant numbers of African-Americans, Latinos and Asians. CLW has requested Title VII Part C funds to hire culturally and linguistically appropriate peer counselors, who will be sited at branch office locations where there has been large growth in minority populations. CLW has been providing independent living services to underserved disability populations including

individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, people who are HIV-positive or who have AIDS, and people whose primary disability is substance abuse or addiction. CLW intends to expand its commitment to underserved populations by using Title VII funds to provide outreach and services to fourteen individuals in their service area who previously received services through the MCB's Independent Living Program.

Greater Framingham Association Independent Living Center (GFA-ILC's) service area includes a significant Hispanic population, as well as a large Deaf community. GFA-ILC has requested Title VII Part C funds to hire culturally and linguistically appropriate peer counselors to outreach and provide services to the Deaf and Hispanic communities.

Independence Associates' (IA's) service area includes significant Hispanic and Portuguese populations. IA intends to use its Title VII Part C funds to continue support of its existing bi-lingual and bi-cultural staff and to develop and translate its publications and materials into languages that are appropriate to its consumer population.

Independent Living Center of the North Shore's (ILCNS's) service area includes significant Latino, Portuguese and Asian populations. ILCNS has requested Title VII Part C funds to translate materials and to hire an additional peer counselor to outreach and provide services to Spanish-speaking consumers. Activities will include exploring the possibility of citing a branch office in Gloucester to provide better access to services to individuals, including a large minority population, residing in Gloucester/Cape Ann. In addition, ILCNS proposes to use Title VII funds to increase peer counselor capacity to serve six individuals who had been receiving services through MCB's Independent Living Program, and to continue to build their ability to serve other underserved populations, particularly those with psychiatric disabilities.

Northeast Independent Living Program's (NILP's) service area includes significant Asian (particularly Khmer, Laotian and Vietnamese) and Latino populations. NILP has requested Title VII Part C funds for translation services and to hire a culturally and linguistically appropriate skills specialist to provide community outreach and training and support for staff of NILP's specialized service programs. A number of these programs target underserved disability populations including: persons who are deaf or hard of

hearing, persons who are blind or visually impaired, and persons with psychiatric disabilities. NILP has also sought Title VII funds to expand their efforts, based on two small pilot projects, to serve people with mental retardation and head injuries.

Southeast Center for Independent Living's (SCIL's) service area includes significant Latino, Cape Verdean, African-American and Cambodian communities. SCIL has requested Title VII Part C funds to hire an individual to coordinate their Multi-Cultural Outreach program to these communities. SCIL provides services to underserved disability populations through its Deaf and Hard of Hearing program. In addition, SCIL has requested Title VII funds to hire a peer counselor to provide services to individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Stavros Independent Living Center's service area includes significant African-American and Latino populations. Stavros has requested Title VII Part C funds to hire culturally and linguistically appropriate peer counselors, to be sited in Springfield and Holyoke, cities with large African-American and Hispanic populations. Stavros continues to target underserved disability populations through its program for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, and by working with local multiple sclerosis and head injury organizations to coordinate services for persons with those disabilities.

